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you like the Boss **18**

Whose
house?
Our house.
RedEye for iPad

RedEye

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

OBAMA'S PLAYBOOK

One election down, one to go: The president's ready to reintroduce himself **3, 6-7**

REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

DO**LAST LAUGH**
Netup Cafe

528 E. 43rd St. 773-299-8103

FREE It's the season finale for the Bronzeville Comedy Show, the popular outdoor BYOB stand-up showcase where **vocalo.org** "Morning Amp" host and NPR's "Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me" panelist Brian Babylon host sets by Beth Stelling, Megan Galley, M Dubz, Saurin Choksi and Marlon Mitchell. 7:30-10 p.m.

**DRINK****RED, RED WINE****Pippin's Tavern**
806 N. Rush St. 312-787-5435

Take your own personal wine journey at The "Sideways" Challenge, which features tastings of Cadet DOC and **Erath pinot noirs** and Hogue Cellars and Blackstone merlots, served with savory pairings. 6-7:30 p.m. RSVP required: rushanddivision.com.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Multi-show passes are available for the 48th Chicago International Film Festival: chicagofilmfestival.com.

EAT**FARM TO FORK**
Old Town Social
455 W. North Ave. 312-266-2277

It's release night for Vander Mill Brewing Company's new Loving Cup cider (brewed with pink peppercorns and hibiscus and named for a Rolling Stones song; \$6) and chef Jared Van Camp celebrates by roasting a pig that was fed compost from the cider's creation to bring you pairings including pulled pork with jicama slaw (\$10) and pork chop with smoked apple sausage, roasted onions, apples and apple brandy (\$18). 5-10 p.m.

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First lady Michelle Obama makes her speech Tuesday.
GETTY IMAGES

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

FIRST LADY-LIKE

Michelle Obama makes opening-night appeal to nation: 'We must work like never before'

Reuters

CHARLOTTE, N.C. First lady Michelle Obama acknowledged Tuesday that the change her husband sought in his White House campaign four years ago has proved difficult, but she urged voters to give him another term to fix the weak economy.

"He reminds me that we are playing a

long game here, and that change is hard, and change is slow, and it never happens all at once," she told the Democratic National Convention. "But eventually we get there. We always do."

With Democrats anxious about a race with Republican nominee Mitt Romney that is too close to call nine weeks before the Nov. 6 election, Michelle Obama urged party activists to rally around President Obama.

"We must work like never before, and we must once again come together and stand together for the man we can trust to keep moving this great country forward, my

husband, our president, Barack Obama," she said.

Under fire for high unemployment, President Obama wants to use the convention to seize the political spotlight back from Romney, who held his own nominating convention in Tampa, Fla., last week.

A host of speakers at the gathering in Charlotte attacked Romney for his business record, refusal to release more tax returns and for spearheading a Republican "war on women."

The Democrats even choreographed a swipe at the former executive from beyond

the grave, by playing a video of late Sen. Ted Kennedy getting the better of Romney during a debate in the 1994 election campaign for Kennedy's Senate seat.

Michelle Obama laced her speech with what seemed to be subtle digs at Romney but mostly kept her focus on her husband, recalling their early days together.

"For Barack, success isn't about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives," she said. "He was the guy whose proudest possession was a coffee table he'd found in a dumpster, and whose only pair of decent shoes was a half-size too small."

The opening acts

Michelle Obama wasn't the only person with Illinois connections to speak at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday. Here are three other key quotes from the day.



Your vote is a valuable thing. Entrust it to someone who respects you enough to tell you the truth." —**Gov. Quinn**

GG Every challenge was different.

Every choice was difficult. But every time, the leadership was steady." —**Mayor Emanuel**, who was President Obama's first White House chief of staff

GG It's about whether we do for our fellow Americans what my crew did for me, whether we'll look out for the hardest hit and the disabled, whether we'll pull together in a time of need, whether we'll refuse to give up until the job is done."

—U.S. House candidate **Tammy Duckworth**, who was rescued after the Blackhawk assault helicopter she was piloting was shot down in Iraq in 2004

English majors can do this math



Stephen Markley

✉ redeye@tribune.com
@stephenmarkley

only as "Fairy Tales" because they once saw me reading my big book of fairy tales for the class.

Therefore, I was happy to see a study done by **salary.com** on the degrees that offer students the best return on investment. The author found that majoring in English was one of eight degrees that offered the most bang for its buck—right up there with engineering, IT and economics.

This may not surprise humanities majors. As an English and history double major, I don't remember a single, actual, verifiable "fact" from my entire undergraduate career. In terms of themes from Zakes Mda's "The Heart of Redness" or specific dates of the Counter-Reformation, I might as well have spent four years soaking in a tub of Natty Light and used condoms. However, I still consider that education invaluable and will gladly argue the value of the liberal arts degree.

"It's the art history major's fault," I'll hear. "She spent four years getting a worthless degree and now she wonders why she can't find a job."

Yet have you ever talked to the art history major? Her mind is nimble and she impresses with her insight into situations and circumstances and institutions that many an MBA degree-holder fails to

appreciate. We could have used a few more art history majors on Wall Street during the past decade.

Yet education continues to be commodified, reduced entirely to another cog in a market system that demands to assign everything a value. Thus in the age of educational austerity, universities are being coerced to ape the online, point-and-click snake oil of for-profit higher ed, a model that will ostensibly "teach" people things without anyone actually learning much.

In case you missed it, all information is now available in a six-second Google search. The ability to "know" something has become far less important than the ability to synthesize knowledge. Because somewhere at the nexus of history and literature and economic theory and social movements and political machinations and scientific advancement, there does lie a kind of truth.

And if you believe, to paraphrase Fox Mulder (David Duchovny was an English major), the truth is out there, then that English class where you debated the meaning of the ringing telephone on the opening page of "Native Son"—arguing errant, passionate points of race and class and capitalism and religion—simply doesn't have a dollar value. Even if it does lead to a high-paying job as a speechwriter or a Web content manager, money comes and goes. The moments that reveal the human narrative, that open doors in your mind you previously didn't know were there, do not.

Plus, while my roommate burned his brain apart on differential equations, I totally got three credit hours for writing papers on "Little Red Riding Hood." I can't wait to mail him my next book: "Fairy Tales Markley Rides Again, You Stupid Engineer."

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR STEPHEN MARKLEY IS THE AUTHOR OF "THE GREAT DYSMORPHIA" AND "PUBLISH THIS BOOK."

“ The ability to 'know' something has become far less important than the ability to synthesize knowledge.



Members of the North Carolina delegation cheer on the floor of the Democratic National Convention.
NCT

SOCIAL TRACKER: THE DNC

There's a donkey in the room. The Democratic National Convention is in full swing in Charlotte, N.C., and you can follow all of the action on social media. Here are a few key accounts, hashtags and more to check out.

#DNC2012 (TWITTER)

This is the official hashtag for this week's event, as decided by...

@DEMCONVENTION (TWITTER)

...the official Twitter account for the Democratic National Convention Committee.

DEMCONVENTION (INSTAGRAM)

Get behind-the-scenes photos from convention organizers in the hall throughout the week.



Harold and Kumar

DEMCONVENTION (FACEBOOK)

The official Facebook page is rounding up "I'm there!" photos from attendees and sharing with its followers, if you'd like to get an idea of who's in Charlotte this week.

@KALPENN (TWITTER)

The star of the "Harold and Kumar" movies and former associate director of the White House Office of Public Engagement was a scheduled speaker Tuesday at the DNC and hosts special online coverage of the convention Thursday.

DEMCONVENTION2012 (YOUTUBE)

Watch the entire convention streamed live on YouTube.

@OBAMA2012 (TWITTER)

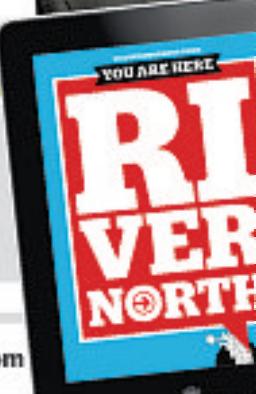
The official account of President Obama's 2012 campaign, @Obama2012 already has been dropping lots of endorsements from celebrities and some cool behind-the-scenes photos.



President Obama
GETTY IMAGES

Exclusive iPad guide!

RedEye is now available on your iPad. It's everything you love about the newspaper and much more. Check out the new River North guide that contains exclusive content not found anywhere else! RedEye for iPad is published Monday through Friday for \$1.99 per month.



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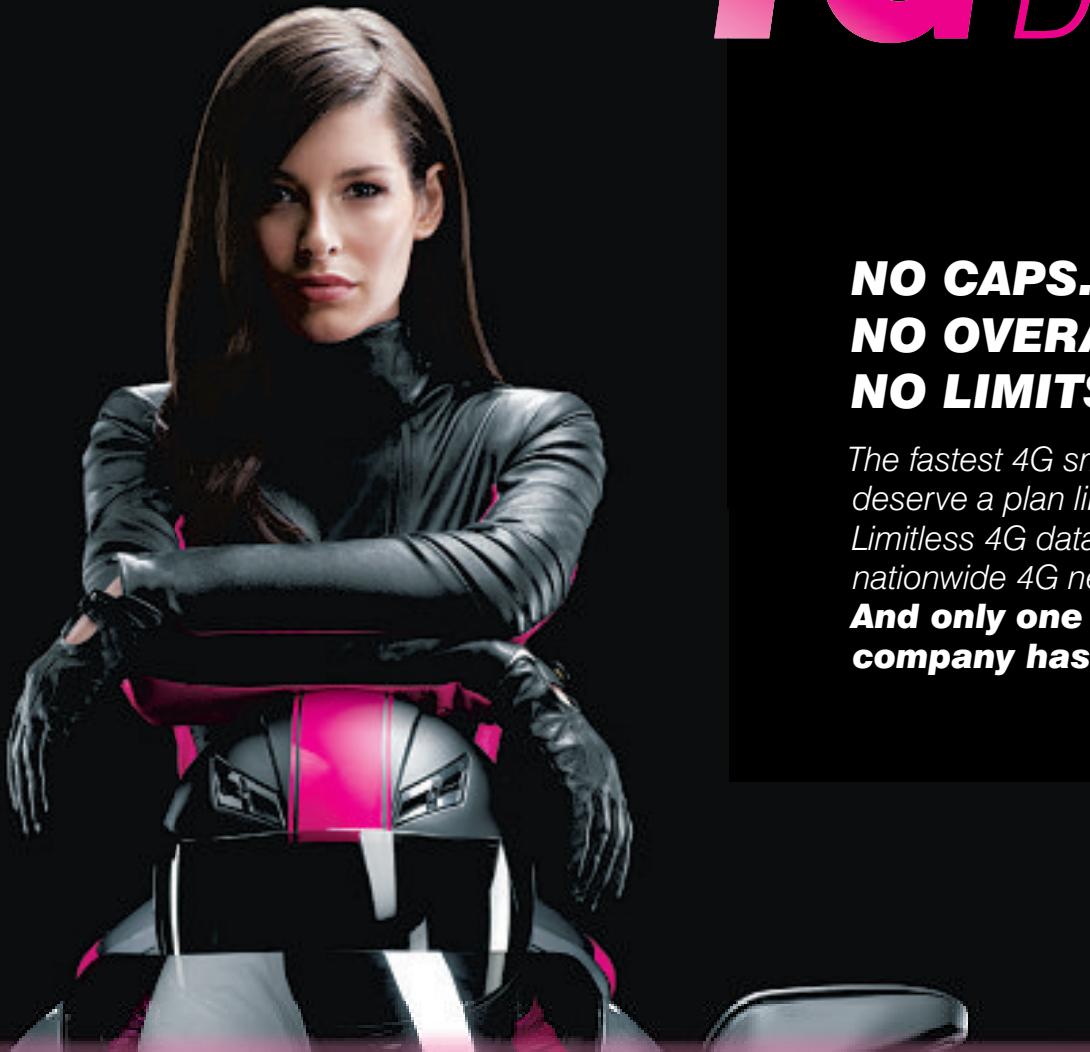
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cover story

PRESIDENTIAL SCRAPBOOK

EVEN IN SERIOUS TIMES, THERE HAVE BEEN QUIRKY MOMENTS IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Has it been four years already?

The last time Barack Obama was campaigning to be president, the Blackhawks had not won a Stanley Cup in nearly 50 years and the Cubs—well, nothing's changed with the Cubs. But a lot has happened to the nation in these past four years: U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden; Congress repealed "Don't Ask Don't Tell," the controversial policy surrounding gays in the military; the economy suffered widespread crisis; health

care saw reform and U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq.

These issues and more—the economy in particular—will be on the docket this week as the Democratic National Convention, which kicked off Tuesday, unfolds in Charlotte, N.C.

Of course, there were some lighthearted moments in the last four years as well. As Democrats gather in the Tar Heel state, RedEye looks at some of the animated moments of Obama's presidency.

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Beer me

President Obama hosts a "beer summit" with Vice President Joe Biden (from left), Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Massachusetts police Sgt. James Crowley at the White House on July 30, 2009. The summit came in a response to a dispute over racial profiling. AP FILE



Justin time

Justin Bieber performs at a taping of "Christmas in Washington" on Dec. 11. The Obama family was in attendance at the show, which was hosted by Conan O'Brien. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Gulf outing

The president, Michelle and Sasha Obama ride a boat in Saint Andrews Bay off Panama City Beach in Florida on Aug. 15, 2010, months after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. GETTY IMAGES FILE



Crash

Soon-to-be reality stars Michaela and Tareq Salahi arrive at a state dinner to honor India's Prime Minister on Nov. 24, 2009. The apparent party crashing set off a furor over security breaches. GETTY IMAGES FILE



Hello, Dalai
The Dalai Lama meets with President Obama in the White House on Feb. 18, 2010, despite objections from the Chinese government. AP FILE

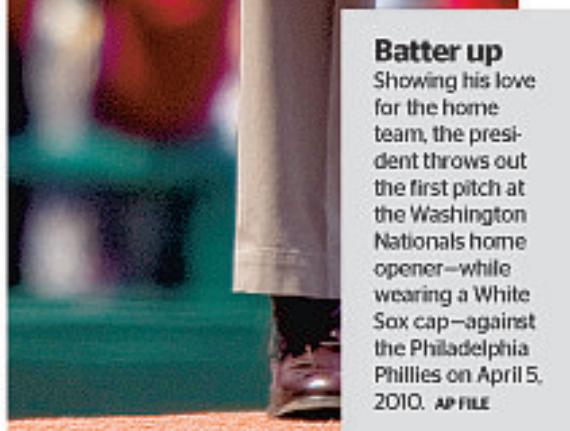


Nobel achievement
At a ceremony Dec. 10, 2009, the president receives the Nobel Peace Prize "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." AP FILE



It's Bo, yo
President Obama with Bo the dog March 15. The Obamas took home the Portuguese Water Dog in spring 2009. GETTYIMAGESFILE

Boom, roasted
President Obama laughs as Jimmy Kimmel delivers his speech at the White House Correspondents Association annual dinner in Washington on April 28. Said Kimmel: "Hey Mr. President, do you remember when the country rallied around you in hopes for a better tomorrow? That was hilarious." AP FILE



Batter up
Showing his love for the home team, the president throws out the first pitch at the Washington Nationals home opener—while wearing a White Sox cap—against the Philadelphia Phillies on April 5, 2010. AP FILE

chicago



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FRIDAY
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Hellooo weekend!



DREW PETERSON TRIAL

WILL THEY CONVICT?

Jury scheduled to begin deliberations after final duel among attorneys

Chicago Tribune

Prosecutors presented the Drew Peterson murder case as a puzzle of circumstantial and hearsay evidence for jurors to solve with their common sense.

A defense attorney called the mysterious death at the center an accident and the case itself as "riddled with doubt like a piece of Swiss cheese."

Attorneys in the murder case made their final pitches to jurors Tuesday during more than 4½ hours of closing arguments that referenced ev-

erything from traumatic head injury to the film "Pulp Fiction."

The panel of 12 Will County residents is scheduled to begin deliberating Wednesday.

Peterson, 58, a former Bolingbrook police sergeant, is on trial for the 2004 bathtub drowning of his third wife, Kathleen Savio. The death was treated as an accident until Peterson's fourth wife, Stacy, vanished in 2007.

Prosecutors took a fairly straightforward approach in their closings, urging jurors to look at the accumulated evidence including hearsay statements from Savio's friends, family and acquaintances that she feared Peterson would kill her as well as expert testimony that her death was a murder.

Defense attorney Joseph Lopez took a more

colorful, sometimes rambling approach, larding his closing argument with pop-culture references, as well as metaphors of pie-eating cats and water balloons and anecdotes about his 4-year-old son.

He relied heavily on a slide presentation that began with a warning to jurors. "This case is about Kathy—not Stacy," the PowerPoint slide read with yellow text on a black background. "Do not forget that."

The courtroom and an overflow room across the hall were packed for the closing arguments. Members of Savio's family, including her sisters Sue and Anna Doman, Stacy Peterson's sister Cassandra Cales and five Illinois State Police officials who helped lead both investigations were in the courtroom.

EXPRESS LINES

» Chicago LGBT health organization Howard Brown has announced the resignation of its CEO, Jamal Edwards. Board chair Karma Israelsen will be interim president and CEO while Howard Brown plans a search for Edwards' permanent replacement.

» More than 100 CTA riders attended a public hearing Tuesday on a proposal billed as enhancing bus and train service. But most people who testified denounced the crowding-reduction strategy as a trick by transit officials to slash much-needed bus routes.

» Speaking to reporters before he rang the bell at Clemente High School on Tuesday, CPS chief Jean-Claude Brizard said school officials are making "steady progress" in contract talks with teachers as a strike deadline looms.

REDEYE, TRIBUNE



LIVE FROM THE DNC

What's really going on at the Democratic National Convention? Matt Fruth, president of the Young Democrats of Illinois, is in Charlotte, N.C., as a delegate, and he's giving RedEye a behind-the-scenes peek at the event.



REUTERS

Now that everyone is in town, things are really under way. It has been a lot of fun running into friends from across the country just walking down the street.

We have been wholeheartedly welcomed by the leaders in the Democratic Party. One of the nice things that happens is when random people in line ask where you are from and if you are a delegate. Conversations flow easily while waiting to get into meeting rooms and restaurants. The feeling is reminiscent of Inauguration Day, when people were just so happy to be present and part of the event.



There are hundreds of young people here—delegates and those just wanting to be here. More than 10 percent of the delegates here are under the age of 36. For the vast majority, it is their first convention, but after talking to them it is clear it won't be their last.



MACY'S CELEBRATES FASHION'S NIGHT OUT

Macy's in Chicago, Thursday, September 6



Nzimiro Oputa



The Bumby's



Girls of Lincoln Park

Be part of the global celebration of fashion at Macy's!

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Macy's on State Street

Noon: Enjoy a special performance by some of the cast members from the hit Broadway musical, [Million Dollar Quartet](#).

1:00 p.m.: Satisfy your sweet tooth with a delicious demonstration by [Confection Diva](#).

6:00 p.m.: **Women's:** Start your night with a fashion presentation, hosted by [Fashion Star](#) alum [Nzimiro Oputa](#) and styled by some of Chicago's favorite bloggers from [VanillaFringe.com](#), [ChiTownFashionista.com](#) and [CoralsandCognac.com](#). Then, get to the Men's Department for style tips from Nzimiro.

Celebrate Calvin Klein's 30th Anniversary with informal modeling of the latest Men's and Women's CK Underwear Collection.

7:00 p.m.: Experience anonymous performance artists [The Bumby's](#) fair and honest appraisal of your appearance with nothing more than their typewriters and charming wit.

7:00 p.m.: Meet [Aviva Drescher](#), the newest cast member of Bravo's hit TV series *The Real Housewives of New York City*.

7:00 p.m.: Enjoy a special culinary demonstration by Macy's Regional Executive Chef [Brad Saylor](#). Sample refreshments from some of your favorites including [POM Wonderful](#)®, [vitaminwater](#)®, [smartwater](#)®, [Luna Bar](#), [Pirates Booty](#), [Sweet Margy Toffee Confections](#) and [Macy's Mini Burger Cart](#). Stop by the Wine Shop to sample[®] Raspberry Sparklers and Craft Beer provided by [Louis Glunz](#).

Shop the collections of the designers of the Chicago [Fashion Incubator](#) and [Chicago Designers](#) trunkshow. Throughout the evening, strike a pose at our photobooth, stop by the beauty counters for gifts and pamper yourself at Kiva's PureBeauty Nail and Brow Bars.

Macy's Water Tower Place

Meet Chicago fashion and lifestyle bloggers, [The Girls of Lincoln Park](#)!

Rock out to the latest beats spun by our guest DJs while you sample light bites, courtesy of [KIND Bars](#), [Sweet Margy Toffee Confections](#), [PoshCorn](#) and [Spun Confections](#). Then, quench your thirst with sips from [IZZE](#) and [POM Wonderful](#)®.

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FROM NEWS SERVICES

1 Residents grapple with tough heat

As more residents in southern Louisiana return home after Hurricane Isaac, many must now contend with a new obstacle: rebuilding their lives amid blistering temperatures and no air conditioning.

2 Red Bull heir charged in crash

The family of a Thai police officer killed in a car crash in Bangkok expressed shock and grief Tuesday over his death, which the grandson of the creator of the Red Bull energy drink has been charged with causing.

3 S. Korea reviews castration policy

South Korea is considering the expansion of its chemical castration law to those who have sexually assaulted victims as old as 19, according to the country's state-run news agency.

4 Ryan stands by RNC remarks

Republican vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan declined Tuesday to back away from statements in his party convention speech that nonpartisan fact checkers have branded as false or misleading.

5 25 killed by bomber at funeral

A suicide bomber killed at least 25 people and wounded dozens at a funeral in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, officials said, the latest large-scale attack on civilians.

6 Lufthansa cancels O'Hare flights

Lufthansa has canceled flights to and from O'Hare on Tuesday—as well as service in Los Angeles, Houston, Beijing and Mexico City—as flight attendants went on strike at three German airports.

THE DIGIT

\$15,000

A nude model who was arrested last summer after taking off her clothes in the middle of Times Square as part of a body-painting art project has reached a \$15,000 settlement with the city, her attorney said Tuesday.

Apple teases '5' announcement

7 SAN FRANCISCO

It's looking like Apple's next version of its iconic smartphone will be called the iPhone 5.

On Tuesday, the secretive company sent emails to members of the media, inviting them to an "invitation-only event" in San Francisco on Wednesday, September 12.

The event is widely expected to be the launch of the next iPhone, but in typically cryptic Apple fashion, the invitation reveals little about what will be announced. The tagline says only, "It's almost here."

Of course, that never stops Apple obsessives from parsing the invite for clues. This time, the shadow of the number 12 reveals a not-so-subtle "5," reinforcing speculation that the new device will be called iPhone 5 instead of iPhone 4G or something else.

The official announcement of the September 12 date confirms what several media outlets first reported five weeks ago, citing anonymous sources at Apple.

A fall iPhone release has been considered a foregone conclusion by most observers for months. Among the device's rumored new features are a slightly larger screen, a faster processor, a smaller dock connector and possibly NFC technology that would make it easier for shoppers to make payments through their phones.

iMore, the first blog to pinpoint the September 12 launch date, also has said pre-orders will begin that day and that the phone will be released nine days later, on September 21.

Many pundits also expect Apple to launch a smaller version of its popular iPad tablet at a separate event, likely in October.



Need more water

8

A helicopter drops water over a forest fire Tuesday in Portugal, where more than 10 active wildfires are burning. **REUTERS**



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#48214..... \$19,577

2010 CHEVY COBALT
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#XP16608... \$14,577

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#12080C.... \$10,977

2001 JAGUAR XJR
Red, Super Charge, Lthr, Roof
#11802A..... \$ 7,877

2001 FORD EXPLORER
Sport 2DR, Blue, 4x4, Lthr
#48242A..... \$ 5,877

2009 LEXUS IS 250
Granite, Roof, Lthr, V6
#47550..... \$25,477

2007 BMW X3
Blue, Leather, LOADED!
#11661A.... \$18,977

2010 CHRYSLER SEBRING TRG
Red, 4CYL, Nice, Low Miles
#XP16609.. \$14,277

2002 MERCEDES ML500
Black, Lthr, Roof, 4x4
#48072A..... \$ 9,977

2002 PONTIAC GRAND AM
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#XP16644.... \$ 6,977

2002 CHRYSLER SEBRING SX
Green, V6, Pwr, Clean
#XP16694.... \$ 4,977

2009 INFINITI G37
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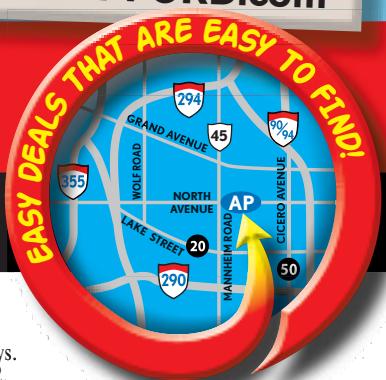


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sports

MAGIC MUTT



Whizzer has good news for Bears fans in 2012

Hello again, faithful readers. If you're wondering why I've been gone so long, my owners at RedEye sent me to London this summer. Not for the Olympics—to brush up on my English.

Jeez, did I really just make that joke? I promise they won't all be that bad. Neither will the Bears, as a matter of fact, who I predict will be playing in January. But that's a column for about four months in the future. For now, here are my picks for the Bears' season.

Sept. 9 vs. Indianapolis

WIN This is not your Lucky day, Andrew. Ugh, I did it again! Just concentrate on the fact that the Bears will roll in this one.

Sept. 13 at Green Bay

LOSS The Packers will be salivating for this matchup against a Bears team going on three days' rest. I swear I'll bite Aaron Rodgers if he comes near me.

Sept. 23 vs. St. Louis

WIN The Rams have no business being on the same field as the Bears. Just like I have no business playing in the street. Same concept.

Oct. 1 at Dallas

WIN Two years ago, the Bears tripped up an overhyped Cowboys team in Dallas early in the season. I love it when this kind of history repeats itself.



Bears fans can't wait to see if their team takes a bite out of the Packers. Whizzer says it looks promising! GETTY IMAGES

Oct. 7 at Jacksonville

WIN Maurice Jones-Drew is finally back, which means ... the Bears will still win this one easily.

Oct. 22 vs. Detroit

WIN Gone are the days when this was an automatic victory. Winning by just a few points counts the same, though.

Oct. 28 vs. Carolina

WIN I know they're cats, but these Panthers scare me. Just a little, though. Actual panthers scare me, too. Don't tell them I said that!

Nov. 4 at Tennessee

WIN Chris Johnson could run for 300 yards and the Bears would still win. I'm getting tired just thinking about it.

Nov. 11 vs. Houston

LOSS Brandon Marshall and the Texans' Andre Johnson take turns playing grown-up fetch. Their version is more exciting. Trust me.

Nov. 19 at San Francisco

LOSS Uh oh, two straight losses. Jim Harbaugh's never gonna let us live this one down, either.

Nov. 25 vs. Minnesota

WIN Now you can stop panicking. Unless Brett Favre comes out of retirement again. 1995 Brett Favre, that is.

Dec. 2 vs. Seattle

WIN You'll be snoozing by haltime of this one, Bears fans. Fortunately, it'll be because the Bears are so far ahead.

Dec. 9 at Minnesota

LOSS I have a feeling Adrian Peterson will run all over the Bears again this time. Don't ask me how I know. I just do.

Dec. 16 vs. Green Bay

WIN By this game, the Bears will finally be fed up with losing to the Packers. Took them long enough.

Dec. 23 at Arizona

WIN The Cardinals are who ... what's that? Dennis Green isn't the coach there anymore? Eh, he's better off when the team's going to be this bad.

Dec. 30 at Detroit

WIN Matthew Stafford can't possibly make it through another full season. Which means even I can catch and sack him. So can the Bears.

REGULAR-SEASON RECORD:

12-4. The playoffs await, my friends. Now if you'll excuse me, I need a snack ...

ON DECK

The Cubs would do well to call up these five. Well, at least they couldn't do any worse.



Tracy Swartz
@tracyswartz
RedEye reporter



Ernest Wilkins
@ernestwilkins
Chicago's wingman



Julie DiCaro
@juliedicaro
Cubs blogger



Soxman
@thesoxman72
Masked White Sox crusader



Brad Zibung
@the_heckler
Founder, theheckler.com

1 How can the Sox improve their chances of making the playoffs?

Bring back Ozzie. He was the best odd.

Do like AZ and Nas said: Mo' homers, Mo' strikeouts, Mo' RBIs ...

Keep playing the Twins for a few more weeks.

Showing up for EVERY GAME—just like our fans need to. It's go time!

Stop getting swept by the team chasing them in the Central.

2 Who would be the ideal September call-up for the Cubs or Sox?

Anyone from the Raes, er, Rays. Cell me, maybe?

Sox: Jack Parkman! Cubs: Jesus H. Christ. (To be fair, they should have called Him back in May.)

I was told there'd be no math.

For the White Sox, how about world famous tiger tamers Siegfried and Roy?

For the Cubs, it would be a young star who can erase a 30-game deficit with one swing of the bat.

3 The Washington Nationals are to the Cubs as ...

... polo is to YOLO.

... I am to anyone who asks: I spent time in Montreal, but we're not going to talk about it anytime soon.

Is Ty Cobb still available? No?

... Washington, D.C., is to taxpayers. You just can't win.

... a 97-win team is to a 97-loss team. Is that too literal?

4 What last-minute preparations are the Bears making before the season begins?

Cutler's doing the last-minute tasks because he's so handy.

Hopefully getting those cool gloves that make a picture when you throw up the DDP/Roc-A-Fella hand sign.

Oiling Urlacher's knee, putting hot sauce in Peppers' veins ...

A future Hall of Fame linebacker is finally practicing. Any questions?

Jay's getting his Kevlar vest reinforced for all the times he drops back more than three steps.

5 What have we learned from the first weekend of the college football season?

"Big Blue" is not just a nickname but a state of mind.

Big Ten fans should calm down with all that chest-thumping. Also, FSU might put up 93 on Savannah State!

That Indiana State has a football team!

Blazing chicken wings ... oh how I've missed you. Only Alabama was hotter.

That Michigan will be really happy when they start taking on fellow patsies in the Big Ten.

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1 Kevin Youkilis

Clearly a facial hair pro. Must be from all those years with the Red Sox.



2 Paul Konerko

It needs time to grow out, but very few guys can pull off the boomerang stache.

THE SOX ARE 'STACHED

It's like playoff beards—only riskier

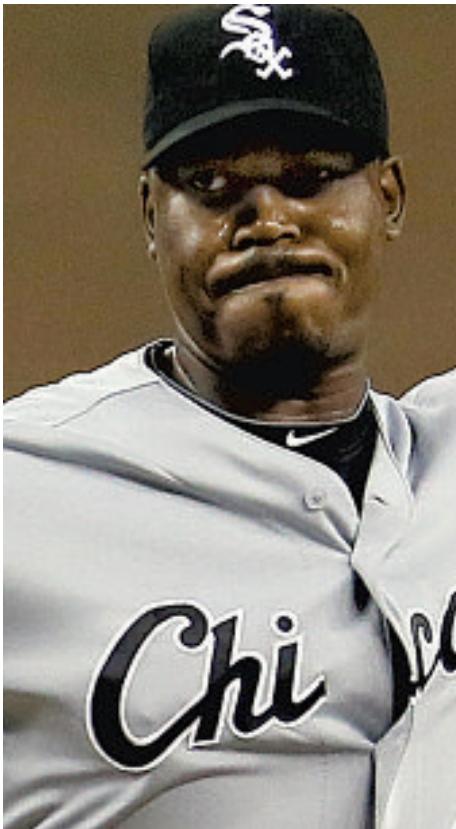
RedEye

When you lose six of seven in the middle of a tight division race, you're willing to try anything to turn your fortunes around. It looks like that's what the White Sox were thinking when they took the field Monday with newly trimmed facial hair. It worked for at least one day, as they beat Minnesota 4-2. But do the new looks work in a fashion sense? See for yourself; here's how we rank them so far:



3 Alexei Ramirez

He's getting there, though we're not sure we can count the scruff on his neck.



4 Donnie Veal

He's on here because we know he's got a great 'stache somewhere. Where'd it go?

NUCCIO DINUZZO/Tribune and Getty Images Photos



Urlacher's pain in the neck

Brian Urlacher's still in pain—but it's not his knee. "You know what the worst thing about yesterday's practice was? My sunburn on my neck that I got because I didn't wear my stinkin' hat. ... It really stings today," he told "The Waddle & Silvy Show" on WMVP-AM 1000 on Tuesday. Bears fans hope that's all that's wrong, and Urlacher insists he'll play in Sunday's regular-season opener against Indianapolis.

It's stupid how fun this is



Ben Johnson

» redeye@tribune.com
» [@crotchfat](https://twitter.com/crotchfat)

"Sure," I said.
"Sounds like fun."

This was my answer when a friend asked me to join his new fantasy football league for insane people. I don't know a better explanation for a voluntary role-playing game in which 12 dudes agree to sift through almost every player in the NFL, including defensive guys, and then

bid via an arbitrary auction value based on projections of their future statistical output, all to build a fake team that will exist forever.

It's like Monopoly, but with regressive statistical analysis and algorithm-laden Excel spread sheets computing the relative value of shoes vs. wheelbarrows. Fun for insane people.

You know what though? It IS fun.

The league completed its inaugural draft this week, a grueling marathon that lasted five and a half hours. Five and half. That's a couple of pee breaks shy of the first two "Godfather" movies. Spending five and a half hours pretending to buy football players is gloriously, dizzyingly, mind-numbingly excessive. It's like that DirecTV commercial with the Russian oil billionaire and the tiny giraffe, only for spending time instead of money. "Opulence. I has it."

A 2006 study by the University of Mississippi estimated the total economic impact of fantasy sports to be between \$1 billion and \$2 billion. That study is now six years old. Given the growing popularity of fantasy sports, \$2 billion is now an extremely conservative estimate of the money that changes hands each year thanks to millions of leagues like mine.

According to the International Monetary Fund, that's more than the Gross Domestic Product of 33 entire countries. Sorry, Liberia, we just bet you on Arian Foster.

After spending five and half hours of my life poring through reams of information about fantasy-relevant defensive backs, I have to say I've only rarely felt more thankful. Instead of fighting for scraps in the street somewhere, I'm researching Antoine Bethea's tackle totals. I feel blessed to be able to invest such an absurd amount of time in something so inherently meaningless. If you play fantasy football, so should you. Because the truth is, it's fun.

BEN JOHNSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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25 can't-miss Chicago shows to rock your fall

By Andy Downing | FOR RED EYE

Chicago's summer concert season finally winds down with a trio of September fests, including the annual Hideout Block Party, the punk-themed Riot Fest and the whimsically named Brilliant Corners of Popular Amusement. Additionally, local music fans get to enjoy live performances from unexpected collaborators (David Byrne and St. Vincent), long-lost R&B stars (D'Angelo) and the one and only Bruce Springsteen, who takes over Wrigley Field for a pair of shows this weekend.



MONTHLY CONCERT GUIDE

September Sounds

GHOSTFACE

Friday at Double Door

It's often said Wu-Tang's various members form like Voltron. In that case, consider Ghostface, the offbeat MC with the raw-nerve flow, the collective's beating heart.



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND

Friday-Saturday at Wrigley Field

For years people have debated tearing down and/or rebuilding Wrigley Field, but the only demolition equipment currently permitted near the stadium is being wielded by Springsteen, who arrives in support of his new album "Wrecking Ball."

SAUL WILLIAMS

Sept. 12 at Schubas

The poet/rapper/actor, who generally comes on like a verbally adept blowtorch, allowed his mellow side to blossom on his latest album "Volcanic Sunlight."



GRIZZLY BEAR

Sept. 30 at Riviera Theatre

The Brooklyn indie folksters arrive in town in support of their highly anticipated new album "Shields."

D'ANGELO AND MARY J. BLIGE

Sept. 13 at United Center

Elusive R&B star D'Angelo makes a long overdue return to the spotlight with this arena tour, supported by powerhouse singer Mary J. Blige.

SONDRE LERCHE

Sept. 14 at Lincoln Hall

The 29-year-old Norwegian singer-songwriter specializes in wordy confessionalists about love gone to pot.

HIDEOUT BLOCK PARTY AND A.V. FEST

Sept. 14 and 15 at Hideout

The annual fest put on by the local dive, which features performances by the likes of Iron & Wine, Wilco and Glen Hansard, is the perfect close to summer.

RIOT FEST

Sept. 14-16 at Humboldt Park

This year's lineup for the punk fest includes performances by everyone from Elvis Costello and Iggy & the Stooges to the Jesus & Mary Chain and The Gaslight Anthem.

PURITY RING

Sept. 16 at Lincoln Hall

The Montreal-based duo turn out chipper pop songs grounded by singer Megan James' oft-dark lyrics.

DAVID BYRNE AND ST. VINCENT

Sept. 18 at Chicago Theatre

The unexpected collaboration between the Talking Heads legend and burgeoning indie rocker Annie Clark of St. Vincent netted both an album ("Love This Giant") and this limited run of shows.



MADONNA

Sept. 19 and 20 at United Center

The pop icon's undeniable influence can be heard in everyone from Lady Gaga to Britney Spears.

KILLER MIKE AND GZA

Sept. 19 at Metro

Atlanta MC Killer Mike brings the brawn (his husky voice hits like a hammer to the gut) and Wu-Tang wordsmith GZA provides the brains for this can't-miss double bill.



RODRIGUEZ

Sept. 20 at Lincoln Hall

The Detroit guitarist is the subject of a new documentary, "Searching For Sugar Man."

LUMINEERS

Sept. 20 at Riviera Theatre; Sept. 21 at Logan Square Auditorium

On their self-titled debut, these throwback Denver rockers come on like an American Mumford & Sons.

LYDIA LOVELESS

Sept. 22 at Mayne Stage

The big-voiced alt-country singer can kick up quite a dust cloud onstage, lashing out at ex-boyfriends, religious fundamentalists and, at times, even herself.

BRILLIANT CORNERS OF POPULAR AMUSEMENT

Sept. 21-23 at Riverfront Theater

Returning for its third go-round, this fest features an eclectic lineup highlighted by performances from soul man Bobby Womack and operatic indie chanteuse Zola Jesus.



PATTERSON HOOD

Sept. 22 and 23 at City Winery

Expect Drive-By Truckers singer-songwriter Patterson Hood to turn down the guitars and amp up the storytelling in this two-night stand in support of his solo album "Heat Lightning Rumbles in the Distance."

ED SHEERAN

Sept. 25 at Riviera Theatre

In recent weeks the fast-rising British singer performed a Pink Floyd cover at the closing of the London Olympics and recorded a duet with Taylor Swift.

DEVO

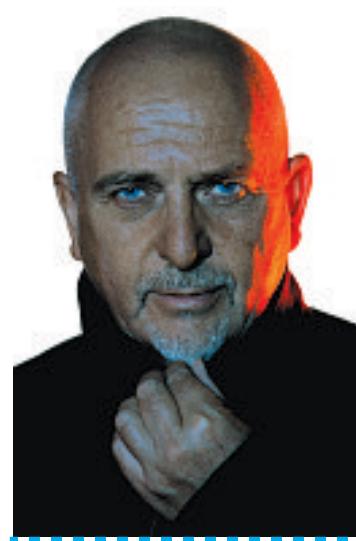
Sept. 26 at Chicago Theatre

Judging by their latest single, the Mitt Romney-baiting "Don't Roof Rack Me, Bro! (Seamus Unleashed)," the Akron, Ohio, new wave punks still know how to rile an audience.

THEE OH SEES

Sept. 28 at Logan Square Auditorium

The prolific, unpredictable garage rockers clean up their shaggy dog sound without sacrificing any power on their latest album "Putrifiers II."



PETER GABRIEL

Sept. 27 at United Center

For this round of shows, timed to the 25th anniversary of Gabriel's "So," the British musician will perform the classic album in its entirety.

SLEIGH BELLS

Sept. 28 at Metro

On Sleigh Bells' sophomore album, "Reign of Terror," the hard-rocking duo pairs chugging power chords with singer Alexis Krauss' damaged vocals.

BEN FOLDS FIVE

Sept. 30 at Chicago Theatre

Piano man Ben Folds recently reunited with his namesake band for this round of shows.

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ALBUM REVIEW

MATCHBOX TWENTY



North
Matchbox Twenty



By Dana Moran

REDEYE SOUND BOARD

Matchbox Twenty (or Matchbox 20 as they previously were known) fall into a very specific category of late-'90s nostalgia that also houses Third Eye Blind (still LOVE) and Train (horrifying). I figured Rob Thomas' n' the gang

would fall somewhere in the middle with their first full album of new material in a decade ... oh, how wrong I was.

Is Matchbox Twenty kind of terrible now? Or am I just not 14 anymore? Here's my track-by-track, knee-jerk analysis.

"PARADE" Oh yay, this sounds like vintage Matchbox Twenty. This is a good track for plotting your hometown escape in high school, aka what I was doing most of the time.

"SHE'S SO MEAN" You really shouldn't sound this happy when singing about someone awful. She drags you to the club, then leaves with her friends—oh the horror! This should be your anthem before you hit on a bartender with low self-esteem.

"OVERJOYED" Rob Thomas sings, "That smile on your face like summer..." If by summer, you mean, "that nasty sunburn I got on the backs of my legs."

Side note: There are few things I hate more than really, really sing-songy choruses. It's the reason I almost stabbed my eyes out when Daniel Powter's "Bad Day" was popular. So when 2/3 of the first songs on "North"—"She's So Mean" and "Overjoyed"—whipped out the tactic, I was clawing at my head.

"PUT YOUR HANDS UP" Oh good, someone discovered voice distortion mics. I'm assuming this dance track is also to be played to get over the chick from "She's So Mean" if the bartender turns you down.

"OUR SONG" "I'll never make you cry again/I'm gonna set things right again." You can start by never playing this song again. The beat is atrocious.

"I WILL" (At this point, I saw that there are 14 songs on the deluxe version of this album and died a little on the inside.) "Take a little piece of me/Hang it by the place you sleep." So, like, your pinkie finger? Actually, this song is less wretched than some of the others; I shouldn't make fun.



Rob Thomas of
Matchbox Twenty
GETTY IMAGES

"ENGLISH TOWN" Oooo, Rob is getting growly now. There was a lot about the sun breaking, so I'm just assuming he stayed up drinking all night.

"HOW LONG" I told you this already, SIX more songs after this. Sheesh.

"RADIO" This is one of those obnoxious songs where you just know Matchbox is going to try to get people to clap along when they play it live.

"THE WAY" I think what really annoys me about this album is that the songs have exactly two tones: upbeat and slightly mournful. This one is the latter.

"LIKE SUGAR" Alternate title: "She's So Mean, Part 2."

"SLEEPING AT THE WHEEL" Alternate title: "Parade: Part 2." Except for more annoying.

"I Believe in Everything" and "Straight for This Life" were not included in this preview, so I mercifully didn't have to listen to them. Do yourself a favor and avoid them, and this entire album, altogether. If you need me, I'll be listening to some actual decent songwriting and melodies that don't all sound exactly the same.

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SEPTEMBER COUNTDOWN

New bars & restaurants

By Lisa Arnett

REDEYE

Ready to put your summer standbys to rest and try something new? Mark your calendars for these coming-soon bars and restaurants due to open in September, listed in order of estimated time of arrival. LMARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM | [@REDEYEAT.S](http://REDEYEAT.S)



La Sirena Clandestina's John Manion



Elizabeth's Ilana Regan



Baume & Brix's Thomas Elliott Bowman



The Boarding House's Alpana Singh

SEPT. 5

Jellyfish

1009 N. Rush St.

Pan-Asian restaurant with a hidden entrance in the Gold Coast.

WEEK OF SEPT. 10

Embeya

564 W. Randolph St.

Contemporary Asian fare in the West Loop from chef Thai Dang, who's worked at Ria and L2O.

MID-SEPTEMBER

Chuck's Manufacturing

224 N. Michigan Ave.

Flavored vodka and funky popcorn adjacent to the Hard Rock Hotel.

WEEK OF SEPT. 17

La Sirena Clandestina

954 W. Fulton Market

Latin-inspired fare in the West Loop from chef John Manion.

The Glunz Tavern

1202 N. Wells St.

Historic family-run tavern returning to operation in Old Town.

SEPT. 18

Carriage House

1700 W. Division St.

Southern cuisine from The Bedford's Mark Steuer down the street in Wicker Park.

SEPT. 19

Elizabeth

4835 N. Western Ave.

Tickets-only restaurant from Ilana Regan, chef/owner of One Sister super-club.

SEPT. 24

Baume & Brix

351 W. Hubbard St.

Innovative cuisine in River North from a group of ex-Moto and Ing chefs.

LATE SEPTEMBER

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720 N. Wells St.

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shop

Get your style at Fashion's Night Out

Chicago Tribune

Retailers across Chicago will be popping champagne, staying open late and showering customers with freebies Thursday to celebrate Fashion's Night Out. Here are some party highlights. Visit fashionsnightout.com for a full list of events.

Macy's on State Street

111 N. State St.
A string of fashion festivities kicks off with a live performance by the cast of Tony-nominated musical "Million Dollar Quartet" (noon), playing at the Apollo Theater. Later, "Fashion Star" finalist Nzimiro Oputa presents fall trends (6 p.m.) and gives styling advice (7 p.m.), while emerging designers from the Chicago Fashion Incubator hold a trunk show.

900 North Michigan Shops

900 N. Michigan Ave.
Actress Ali Larter hosts a fall fashion runway show dressed by Chicago stylist Eric Himel (7 p.m.). A "beauty bazaar" offers free mini manicures, massages, hair styling and makeup applications, while more than two dozen in-store parties feature champagne and giveaways. Check out the handbag raffle at Michael Kors and the debut of Charles David's "vegan booties" for a special \$99 price, plus tote and nail polish gift with any purchase.

The Underground

56 W. Illinois St.
The Chicago Fashion Foundation has partnered with marketing agency Londonberry Fashion Group to present a runway show featuring two local Chicago designers and a boutique, as well as free drinks and appetizers. 10 p.m. to midnight.

Shops at Northbridge

520 N. Michigan Ave.
The Ultimate Fall Fashion Challenge pits Chicago stylists, fashion bloggers and fashionistas against one another in a contest to style the best fall looks. Guests and a panel of expert judges vote on their favorites. Prizes are

awarded. And at Forever 21, the first 300 customers to spend \$40 or more get a Love and Beauty set inspired by the fall lookbook.

Haberdash

607 and 611 N. State St.
The men's boutique is hosting "an evening of American heritage" from 6 to 9 p.m., offering guests a look at archival pieces from Red Wing shoes, free hems on any Levi's purchase and gifts with purchase. Nibble on hors d'oeuvres from Osteria Via Stato and sip a signature cocktail from local craft distillery Koval.

BCBGMAXAZRIA

853 W. Armitage Ave., 1714 N. Damen Ave., 111 N. State St.

Take photos of your styled-out self and post them on Instagram tagging #BCBGFNO, or post on BCBGMAXAZRIA's Facebook page, to compete for a chance to win a wardrobe worth \$1,000 or one of two \$500 prizes.

Neiman Marcus

737 N. Michigan Ave.

Agents from Factory Runway modeling agency will be conducting a model search (6-8 p.m.), while luxury consigner Corri McFadden hosts a fashion show (7 p.m.), and guests taste bites from RPM, Paris Club, Rosebud on Rush and Ai Japanese.

Barneys New York

15 E. Oak St.

From 5 to 8 p.m., 10 percent of all sales will be donated to the Human Rights Campaign's Americans for Marriage Equality Program.

Marc Jacobs

11 E. Walton St.

Marc by Marc Jacobs

1714 N. Damen Ave.

Sip champagne, take home gift bags.

La Bella Figura

online
The Chicago-based green beauty boutique hosts an online green beauty shopping extravaganza, and offers free shipping from 5 to 10 p.m. Join the Twitter party at 7 p.m., hosted by "No More Dirty Looks" authors Siobhan O'Connor and Alexander Spunt at #greenbeautyfno, where experts will discuss new trends in skin care, customers can ask questions, and brands will announce special giveaways.



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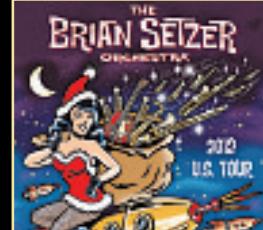
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theater

'Pirates' go sailing

By Julia Borcherts | FOR REDEYE

Pirates swing across the ship, rappel down masts and fire cannons; sailors tack and jib the lines and true love is put to the test as a new site-specific production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 19th century comic operetta, "Pirates of Penzance"—about a pirate apprentice whose romance is threatened when it's discovered that a glitch in his birthdate makes him ineligible for release from servitude—swashbuckles its way onto the Tall Ship Windy this weekend.

The production, developed by Tall Ship Windy artistic director Orion Couling, features 23 actors, one music director, two stage managers, a costumer, a choreographer and two co-directors, one of whom is Couling's sister, Chicago theater artist Emma Couling. RedEye caught up with Emma and her co-director, Jessie Mutz, to find out more about their production.

What challenges did you encounter staging this show on a ship?

JM: We wanted to utilize the vessel as much as possible, but of course couldn't get in the way of the crew or do anything too dangerous. Walking that line was definitely a challenge.

EC: It's incredible how small a 148-foot schooner can seem. We've really had to find creative solutions to things we take for granted in a normal theater space. We've had to redefine what qualified as "backstage" [and] teach our cast ship directions because when you're on a boat, "stage right" could just as easily be portside as starboard.

Anyone get seasick, fall overboard or stage a mutiny against the co-directors during rehearsals?

JM: Nope! Even with their crazy period costumes, learning new blocking and rehearsing outside for hours, the actors did an excellent job staying positive and functional.

EC: It's been one of those rare occasions where the drama stayed on the stage, er, deck.

What can audiences expect from the show?

EC: A rollicking good time—it's definitely not your typical production of "Penzance." The cast is very interactive with the audience.

JM: Most of all, an experi-



'Pirates of Penzance'

ence. It's not just about the performance or the music or the sailing—it's all of it together. More than just observing the world of the play, audiences are invited to be a part of it. My hope is that people will laugh a bit and have fun!

What's one of your favorite show highlights?

JM: I really enjoy the entrance of each new character. Gilbert and Sullivan have a knack for putting those entrances at just the right moment, and it was great to play with that in a nontraditional performance space.

EC: The incredible women playing the Major General's daughters. So often in pro-

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

GO: 5:45 p.m. Saturday-Sunday on the Tall Ship Windy at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

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Dropping in on Honey Boo Boo

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Hello from Honey Boo Boo Country.

With a global audience embracing the small-town, belly-baring, pig-chasing, GoGo Juice-chugging 6-year-old whose antics on "Toddlers and Tiaras" spawned her own show, we decided to red-neckonize and headed to McIntyre, Ga., to meet Alana Thompson and her family.

"It's been a blast," her dad, Mike "Sugar Bear" Thompson, said of the TLC show which airs at 9 p.m. Wednesdays. The premiere episode attracted 2.2 million viewers, and its fan base is international.

"Honestly, it's still surreal," said Alana's mom, June Shannon, recalling a fan letter from Italy. Her youngest daughter "will stop in the middle of anything she is doing and watch the commercial," she said of the "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" promo. ("I will not!" Alana protested.)

"Can I have a Pop-Tart?" Alana asked, having determined there were no Oreos in the house. "I have three boyfriends," she confided a few minutes later. "I love them all equally." Then she displayed some sparkly pageant shoes and noted, "I don't wear them to school.

A steady stream of fans visit Alana 'Honey Boo Boo' Thompson. MCT



You know why? They start hurting."

The show has prompted criticism from pundits commenting on everything from the family's diet to Alana's pregnant 17-year-old sister. Baby Kaitlyn arrived a month ago with two right thumbs but otherwise healthy,

Shannon said. She was candid when discussing the attention her family has attracted.

"Yes, I got locked up," she said, referring to a contempt-of-court charge four years ago. "It was the worst four days of my life. Yes, we really do have our Christmas lights up. The

GoGo Juice was a one-time thing." "Toddlers and Tiaras" captured Alana knocking back the Mountain Dew-energy drink concoction meant to give her a boost during pageant days.

"TLC has been great," Shannon said, adding that there is talk of a second season. "They like that we're not scripted."

Driving around McIntyre, which might take two minutes if you get stopped by the train, we found locals who love their notable neighbors and some who think their show does no favors for the town of fewer than 1,000 people about 30 miles east of Macon.

"The show should be filmed somewhere else," said Terri Jackson, who works at a convenience store around the corner from the "Honey Boo Boo" clan. "I was born here and I want to be buried here, but I don't want 'hillbilly' written on my grave." Florist Anita McGahee finds "Honey Boo Boo" amusing even if it makes her cringe. The show has featured family members belly-flopping into mud pits, engaging in malodorous bodily functions and playing with Glitz the pig, who slept indoors during his tenure as the family's pet.

"We don't act like that," McGahee said. "We do have manners."

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games

THREE TO PLAY

BY RYAN SMITH | FOR REDEYE



Journey Collector's Edition PlayStation 3

Exhibit A in the case of video games qualifying as art: "Journey Collector's Edition." This triptych of previous releases from developer Thatgamecompany is a testament to the fact that games don't have to rely on stressful shoot-em-ups or violent fantasies to succeed. Instead, "Flower," "Flow" and "Journey" manage to exude wonder, beauty, and serenity. The most recent of the batch, "Journey," in which you control a nameless robed figure who must cross a lifeless desert world to reach a mysterious mountain, is the most "game-like" but 2009's "Flower" stands out as the best. Guiding wind-blown petals through a grassy field to bring color back to a drab landscape feels absolutely magical. Whether or not you've played these games before, this collection is a journey worth taking.



Mass Effect 3: Leviathan

Xbox 360, PS3

Creating episodic content for story-based games can be a tricky thing to pull off. How do you present a compelling side story that's good enough for gamers to buy, yet not be essential enough to pack in with the main narrative? "Mass Effect 3: Leviathan" mostly pulls off the trick by giving you a mission to find a mysterious being rumored to be powerful enough to destroy a Reaper, the alien superbeings that threaten to destroy the universe. Luckily, with a story as enormous as the "Mass Effect" saga, there are plenty of plot holes to fill.



JoJo's Bizarre Adventure HD

Xbox 360,
PlayStation 3

Based on an equally strange Japanese manga comic about a family with ghostly supernatural powers, "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure" certainly lives up to its name. Unfortunately, this remake of a fighter that originally appeared on PlayStation and Dreamcast in the late '90s doesn't live up to much else. Despite Capcom giving it a new coat of paint, the game looks pretty ugly and there aren't enough bonus features to justify a rerelease and a \$20 asking price. In the end, "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure" should only be purchased by the four people in the U.S. who are fans of the obscure comic.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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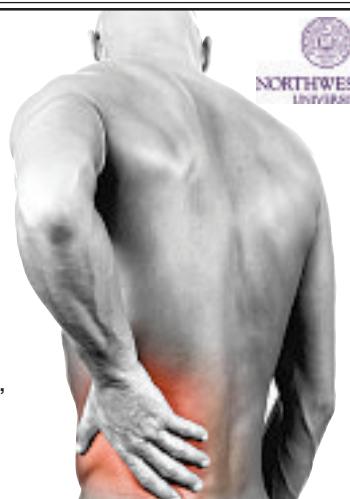
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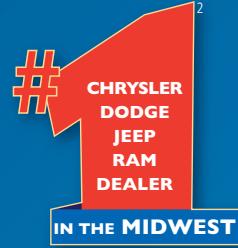
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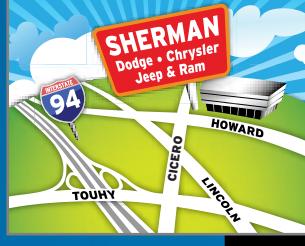


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trending

Porcelain gods to admire

CNN

Will the Hollywood Bowl take the throne? Or will the fans of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis turn out to worship their porcelain gods? Or perhaps the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel here in Chicago will win for its facilities.

When you gotta go, these are the restrooms you're looking for.

These locales are among the public restroom facilities nominated for the 11th Annual Cintas' America's Best Restroom awards. Other nominees include Gitane Restaurant in San Francisco; Mie N Yu Restaurant in Washington; Vanity Nightclub in Las Vegas; Da Marino Ristorante Italiano in New York; Buc-ee's in New Braunfels, Texas; and Lane Stadium/Worsham Field at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

The nominees were flushed out by a team of survey editors, who narrowed public submissions down to the top 10 based on cleanli-



From floor to ceiling, glass mosaic tiles give the lobby restroom at the Radisson Blu a dizzying reflective punch. **COURTESY RADISSON BLU AQUA HOTEL**

ness, visuals, innovation, function and design. The contest is open to any non-residential restroom accessible to the general public.

Take a tour of the finalists at cnn.com or go to the contest site at bestrestroom.com/us for a photographic tour to choose your King of the Throne.

The Field Museum, which was last year's top loo, may be hard to beat. The museum boasts ground floor men's and women's bathrooms that are connected by a family restroom, accessible to both male and female visitors. There are changing tables in bathrooms for both men and women and smaller toilets

and sinks for younger visitors. And there even are museum displays for people wanting to linger in the bathrooms.

"People come in for our dinosaurs, mummies and gems, and last year, they were coming here for our bathrooms," said Field Museum spokeswoman Emily Waldren, who reports that a plaque describing the award has been discreetly placed outside the ground floor bathroom. "I hear people walk by and say, 'These are the best restrooms in America.'"

Vote for your favorite U.S. facility through October 26 and make nominations for next year's contest.

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Los Angeles Times

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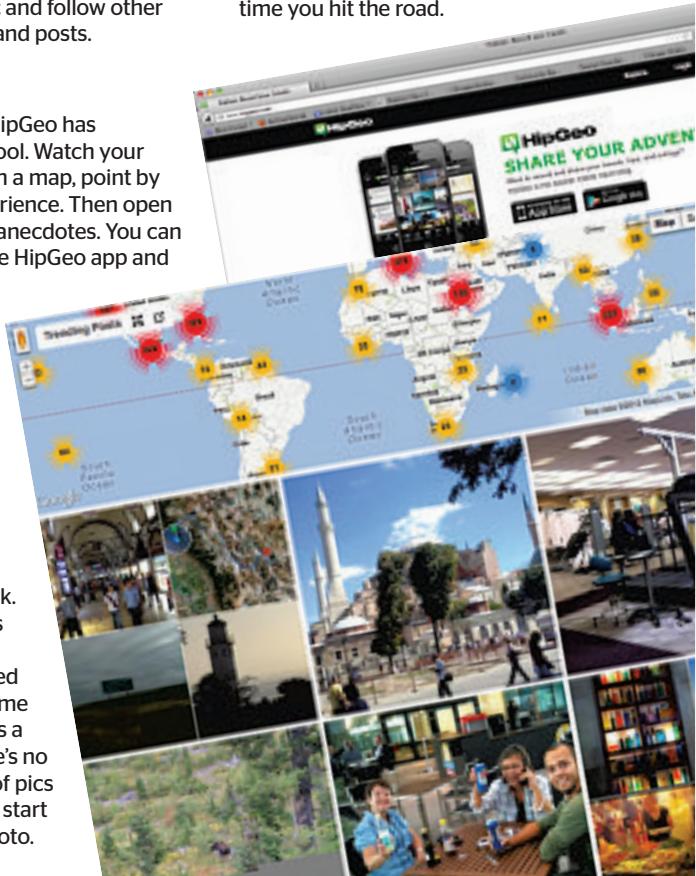
What it does: The app uses geo-technology to organize your photos (and videos for iPhone/iPad) into a virtual travel story. You can also make your journals public and follow other travelers' HipGeo photos and posts.

Cost: Free

What's hot: The feature HipGeo has dubbed "mapmation" is cool. Watch your multiple-day trip unfold on a map, point by point, experience by experience. Then open it up to see your pics and anecdotes. You can load your photos using the HipGeo app and then write longer entries with your free account on its website. You can also shoot and include video straight from the app (but not upload videos taken from your smartphone from the past ... yet).

What's not: If you're uploading photos from your phone, the process is quick. But if you're taking photos with a digital camera and your smartphone, you need to upload them one at a time using the website, which is a longer process. Also, there's no way to change the order of pics once they're uploaded, so start with a good beginning photo.

Worth it: The better photos you take and more time you spend learning the full capabilities of this travel app, the more brag-worthy your posts will be for sharing on Facebook and Twitter. Start practicing before you take your big trip so it's second nature by the time you hit the road.



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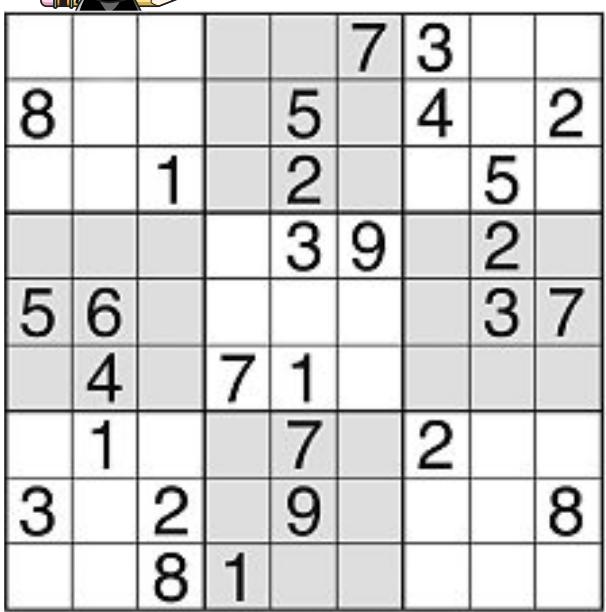
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2001: Mexican President Vicente Fox arrived at the White House as the first state visitor of George W. Bush's presidency.

8	9	4	2	6	1	5	3	7
5	3	6	7	4	9	1	2	8
7	1	2	5	8	3	6	9	4
3	2	7	9	5	6	4	8	1
4	5	8	3	1	2	7	6	9
9	6	1	4	7	8	3	5	2
1	4	9	8	3	5	2	7	6
2	7	5	6	9	4	8	1	3
6	8	3	1	2	7	9	4	5

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W	E	E	D	L	A	B	O	R	D	A	N	A
A	D	D	S	U	N	C	A	R	E	D	F	O
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D	E	P	P	Q	U	T	E	R	E	W	A	D
E	A	S	T	N	E	E	D	S	A	N	S	

ACROSS

- 1 Butter-making vessel
- 6 Colorado ski resort
- 10 To the _ fully
- 14 Vietnam's capital
- 15 Peak
- 16 Huge continent
- 17 Upper crust
- 18 Disliked
- 20 Moist
- 21 Nat King _
- 23 On the ball
- 24 away; disappeared
- 25 Arden & Plumb
- 27 Lend a hand to
- 30 Ring, as a bell
- 31 Temporarily popular fashion
- 34 Drinks like Fido
- 35 Danger
- 36 Garland
- 37 People who put things off until later
- 41 Derby or fez
- 42 Furious
- 43 Heroic tale
- 44 Donkey
- 45 Easter flower
- 46 Discontinues
- 48 Thailand, once
- 49 Hoodlum
- 50 Gather info bit by bit
- 53 "I Got You _"; 1960s hit song
- 54 Japanese sash
- 57 Steered a ship
- 60 Nile or Danube
- 62 Prayer closing
- 63 Actor Diane _
- 64 Language in Athens
- 65 Camp shelter
- 66 Melody
- 67 Stories

DOWN

- 1 Use the molars
- 2 Healthy
- 3 College credit
- 4 Deteriorate
- 5 Brother's daughters
- 6 Bank safe
- 7 Zits
- 8 Mischief-maker
- 9 Zodiac lion
- 10 Tows
- 11 _ of Capri
- 12 Fib teller
- 13 Small fruit pie
- 19 Saffron rice and meat dish
- 22 Toronto's prov.
- 24 Milwaukee's state
- 25 Uncanny
- 26 Conceited
- 27 1st Greek letter
- 28 Gilbert & Rue
- 29 Specks
- 30 Minor; trivial
- 31 Failures
- 32 Eagle's nest
- 33 Compact _; CDs
- 35 Biblical poem
- 38 Irritating
- 39 Opera solo
- 40 Yellowish-brown wood
- 46 Baby bear
- 47 Get-up-and-go
- 48 Canonized one
- 49 San Diego
- 50 Pesky insect
- 51 Like a poor excuse
- 52 _-tempered; unflappable
- 53 Swiss capital
- 54 Finished
- 55 Has _ one no longer popular
- 56 Annoys
- 58 Fore and _
- 59 Fraternity letter
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whoville

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Labor Day has come and gone, which means your tan is probably already fading and you've begun to peer wearily at your sweater collection. It's time to take a look back at what dominated our pop-culture diets this summer. The results: often loaded with carbs and far too much high-fructose corn syrup. Celeb dieters would not be impressed. DMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | REDEYE.DANA

YOUR POP CULTURE SUMMER PROBABLY HIT AT LEAST A FEW OF THESE FOOD GROUPS



SUMMER SNOOZERS?

"The Avengers" and "The Dark Knight Rises" cleaned up at the box office, but summer 2012 was the worst for movie ticket sales since 1993. We must've just been out enjoying the wretchedly hot sun.



**TOM CRUISE/
KATIE HOLMES**



**KRISTEN STEWART/
ROBERT PATTINSON**

We were really psyched to coin "Irampire," but then we found the video of Will Ferrell on "Conan." Dammit. This breakup is actually one of the top reasons we're looking forward to fall, because that final "Twilight" press tour is going to be just magical.



BABY BONANZA



'CALL ME MAYBE'

Some day, Carly Rae Jepsen (who, somehow, is 27) will get into a catfight with Rebecca Black. On that day, we will rejoice.



BUFF DUDES

Here some pecs, there some pecs, everywhere a pec pec. From the men of "Magic Mike"—thanks, Joe Manganiello, for being impossible to miss at Lolla—to the swimmers, divers, gymnasts and other ripped dudes who did their countries proud at the Olympics, we can't remember a buffer summer.

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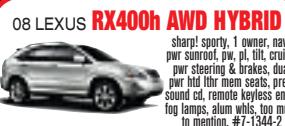
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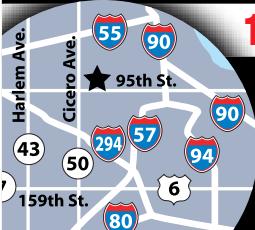
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red hot



Pass the chips

Harold and Kumar are going to ... the Democratic National Convention? President Obama's campaign released an ad Monday featuring the stoner stars and the POTUS. Kumar—uh, we mean Kal Penn—has worked for Obama's administration in the past and will host a Web special Thursday at barackobama.com.



two

That's how many years Jillian Michaels has been away from "The Biggest Loser." That streak will end in January, when she returns as a trainer, thr.com reports.

"I'm a Republican voting for Mitt Romney/ You lazy bitches is [bleeping] up the economy."

—Nicki Minaj, rapping in a song on Lil Wayne's new mixtape and possibly revealing her political leanings



Seal bashing

Heidi Klum has a response for her ex, Seal: It's time to move on. Seal started the back-and-forth with remarks to TMZ suggesting that Klum lacked class because she was "deciding to fornicate with the help, as it were," while the two were separated. Though his rep later clarified to people.com "he was not implying his wife was cheating on him while they were together," Klum nevertheless spoke up. "Our separation was based on issues between the two of us," she told E! News. "Seal has moved on, and so have I."

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



Voice, over

Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong was rushed to the hospital over the weekend while on tour in Europe and emerged Monday in L.A. saying—er, mouthing—that his voice was completely shot, tmz.com reports. The band canceled a show in Italy because of Armstrong's illness.

Read his lip

Nick Offerman's mustache is awe-inspiring, but it's not always easy on the "Parks and Recreation" actor. "My mustache grows with such rampant, perpetual virility that we need to trim it 3 or 4 times a day during filming," he joked in a recent Reddit Ask Me Anything chat. "It was cool at first (grade school), but to be honest, it's getting old."



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